

MOKELUMNE AND COSUMNES WATERSHED ALLIANCE COORDINATION PROGRAM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mokelumne and Cosumnes Watershed Alliance (MCWA) was created to support communication, partnership, and integration of the numerous ongoing and proposed projects in the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed. The area of focus for the MCWA is the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds. Also included are the other major tributaries of each river and adjacent lands, such as the Morrison Creek system including Beach-Stone Lakes and the Point Pleasant area. The projects in the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds include fish passage improvements, habitat restoration and preservation, flood control, research and monitoring, and watershed management. The intent of MCWA is to provide a mechanism for coordinated and integrated activities to ensure that restoration and other projects to avoid conflicts and take advantage of synergies, to best achieve the overall goal of a healthier watershed. Preliminary discussions among a number of the agencies/entities sponsoring the projects in the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed indicate the potential for significant overlap of activities, and the opportunity for mutual benefits through cooperative efforts. Additionally, early dissemination of information to stakeholders and other affected parties regarding projects in the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed has been identified as a critical need. It is critical to the implementation of the proposed projects that there be open and candid discussion among project proponents and stakeholders from project formulation through implementation.

The MCWA will function as a coordinator and information clearinghouse for these projects, as well as any future projects in the area. The purpose of the MCWA is to ensure that coordination is established and maintained for the numerous ongoing projects funded by CALFED or other sources in the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds and that subsequent system-wide ecosystem benefits are realized.

Proposed activities of the MCWA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Facilitate Communication* - The MCWA will provide a forum for each of the agencies/entities to describe and summarize the status of their individual projects and programs. In addition to the MCWA member agencies/entities, potentially affected stakeholders and other interested parties will be invited to the MCWA meetings and included in any associated communication forums.
- *Identify Conflicts* - The MCWA will provide a forum for identifying, discussing, and possibly developing recommendations for resolution of potential conflicts. MCWA will not serve as a dispute resolution body in that it is not a decision making entity.
- *Address Regulatory Concerns* - The Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed is a

- *Assessment Reports* - MCWA will periodically assess how the program is functioning. This review will be summarized in a periodic assessment report which will also include what steps were/will be taken to improve any deficiencies.

The following entities currently participate in MCWA. Additional entities may participate in the future:

- CALFED
- City of Lodi
- Department of Water Resources
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sacramento County
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Reclamation Board
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- Sacramento County
- San Joaquin County
- San Joaquin County Council of Governments
- San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
- U.C. Davis Center for Integrated Watershed Science and Management
- U.C. Davis Information Center for the Environment
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
- Woodbridge Irrigation District